Shortage of LPG in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh

†2450. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG connection holders in Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh and the total monthly consumption of LPG;

(b) whether LPG is being supplied to the distributors and by them to the consumers readily as per the demand/consumption of the same;

(c) if so, reasons for shortage of LPG in this district; and

(d) the action taken on any information received from any quarter including representatives of people with regard to shortage of LPG in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 1.4.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they are serving 104584 consumers in Chhindwara District in Madhya Pradesh and the total monthly consumption is 771.4 MTs.

(b) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including in Chhindwara in the State of Madhya Pradesh and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors *viz.*, reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis and corrective action being taken wherever required.

Market regulator for gas

2451. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration for an autonomous market regulator for pricing of natural gas for the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.